



Shinji

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q67461

Shinji EBATA

Appln. No.: 09/993,761

Group Art Unit: 2161

Confirmation No.: 7563

Examiner: Unknown

Filed: November 27, 2001

For: MANAGEMENT SYSTEM AND MANAGEMENT METHOD FOR FEE-BASED
SERVICE AS WELL AS RECORDING MEDIUM ON WHICH PROGRAM THEREFOR
IS RECORDED

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby
notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached
PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) form and listed herein and which the Examiner may deem
material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

1. Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. 2000-123258, published
April 28, 2000, previously submitted with May 7, 2004 Information Disclosure
Statement.

2. Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. H08-221482, published
August 30, 1996, previously submitted with May 7, 2004 Information Disclosure
Statement.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
U.S. Appln. No.: 09/993,761

3. Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. H09-327600, published December 22, 1997, previously submitted with May 7, 2004 Information Disclosure Statement.
4. Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. H11-57300, published March 2, 1999.
5. Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. H09-161147, published June 20, 1997, previously submitted with May 7, 2004 Information Disclosure Statement.
6. United States Patent No. 4,797,656, published January 10, 1989, previously submitted with May 7, 2004 Information Disclosure Statement.
7. United States Patent No. 5,799,281, published August 25, 1998.
8. United States Patent No. 5,774,528, published June 30, 1998.
9. United States Patent No. 5,978,770, published November 2, 1999.
10. United States Patent No. 5,424,940, published June 13, 1999.
11. United States Patent No. 6,157,313, published December 5, 2000.

One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith, except those which have previously submitted. Also, enclosed is a European search report dated April 23, 2004 issued in the corresponding European Patent Application and cites references 6-11.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed: (1) No later than three months from the application's filing date; (2) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits (whichever is later); or (3) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action after

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

U.S. Appln. No.: 09/993,761

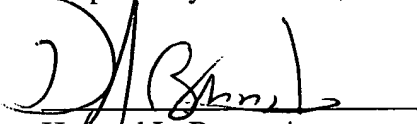
filing a request for continued examination (RCE) under §1.114, and therefore, no Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required.

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicant encloses here with a copy of a corresponding Japanese Office Action dated June 8, 2004 and an English translation of the pertinent portions thereof which cites listed referenced 1-5 and indicates the degree of relevance found by the foreign

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this paper is attached.

Respectfully submitted,



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WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: July 13, 2004

Substitute for Form 1449 A & B/PTO

Complete if Known

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet

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of

1

Application Number	09/993,761
Confirmation Number	7563
Filing Date	November 27, 2001
First Named Inventor	Shinji EBATA
Art Unit	2161
Examiner Name	Unknown
Attorney Docket Number	Q67461

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)		
		US 5,799,281	A	08-25-1998	E.L.M.S., LLC.
		US 5,774,528	A	06-30-1998	Advanced Laundry Devices
		US 5,978,778	A	11-02-1999	Visible Interactive Corporation
		US 5,424,940	A	06-13-1995	
		US 6,157,313	A	12-05-2000	Motorola
		US 4,797,656	A	01-10-1989	
		US			
		US			
		US			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Translation ⁶
		Country Code ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)			
		JP	2000-123258		04-28-2000		No
		JP	H08-221482		08-30-1996		No
		JP	H09-327600		12-22-1997		No
		JP	H11-57300		03-02-1999		No
		JP	H09-161147		06-20-1997		No

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city, and/or country where published.	Translation ⁶

Examiner Signature

Date Considered

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov, MPEP 901.04 or in the comment box of this document. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST. 3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to indicate here if English language Translation is attached.